

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 BIB-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SAM-01 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 /066 W

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O R 131928Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1221

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8264

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV ELECTION SPEECH: FIRST IMPRESSIONS

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

1. OUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS ON BREZHNEV'S ELECTION SPEECH

JUNE 13 ARE THAT WHILE REAFFIRMING THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO
DETENTE IT CONTINUES THE SOMEWHAT TOUGHER LINE ON RELATIONS

WITH THE WEST INCORPORATED IN THE APRIL 1975 PARTY PLENUM
STATEMENT. SPEECH STRESSED THAT DETENTE IS NOW POSSIBLE

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BECAUSE OF THE CHANGING CORRELATION OF FORCES. BREZHNEV

ALSO EMPHASIZED BY RAISING VOICE THAT "IN THE FUTURE AS WELL" THE SOVIET UNION WILL CONTINUE AN ACTIVE AND PERSISTENT POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR "NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS", SERVING INTERESTS OF "WIDEST MASSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." THROUGHOUT SPEECH, HOWEVER, BREZHNEV MADE REFERENCE TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AS ONLY POSSIBLE PATH IN PRESENT-DAY WORLD.

2. ENEMIES OF DETENTE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ADVOCATE INCREASED ARMS SPENDING, ARE ON THE RECEIVING END OF FAIRLY SHARP ATTACK IN THE SPEECH. BREZHNEV ACCUSED SOME POLITICIANS OF PLAYING DOMESTIC POLITICS WITH PROTESTATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR DETENTE WHILE IN FACT HOPING FOR RETURN OF COLD WAR. HE SAID THAT STATESMEN MUST STAND UP TO SUCH DETENTE OPPONENTS IF PEACE IS TO BE DURABLE.

3. BREZHNEV MENTIONED THE U.S. THREE TIMES, ALL IN FAVORABLE, MODERATE CONTEXT. SPEAKING OF "UPCOMING SUMMIT THIS YEAR" WITH THE PRESIDENT, HE SAID PRESENT STEPS (HE MENTIONS SALT) TOWARD FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS PRAISEWORTHY BUT NOT SUFFICIENT. HE SAID HE "COULD NOT BUT AGREE" WITH THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT DETENTE IS IN INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES.

4. BREZHNEV SAID NOTHING AT ALL ON MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, OR ANY OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL REGION. HE MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO CSCE, NOTING THAT CONCLUSION IS ALMOST AT HAND. ON MBFR, HE SAID THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IF BOTH SIDES APPROACH TALKS "HONESTLY AND OBJECTIVELY" WITHOUT ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE.

5. BREZHNEV ALSO MADE SOMEWHAT PUZZLING PROPOSAL FOR MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON PROHIBITION OF DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, SAYING THAT AT PRESENT LEVEL SCIENCE CAN CREATE WEAPONS "EVEN WORSE" THAN THE ATOM.

6. BREZHNEV GAVE 50-MINUTE SPEECH WITH USUAL PROBLEMS OF ELOCUTION; HIS APPEARANCE SEEMS UNCHANGED. ALL MOSCOW-BASED LEADERS ATTENDED KREMLIN PALACE OF CONGRESSES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SPEECH. WARM-UP SPEAKERS HEAPED PRAISE ON BREZHNEV IN FLORID TERMS.

7. WE WILL REPORT MORE FULLY ON FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF SPEECH WHEN WE HAVE FULL PRINTED TEXT. THOUGH WE HEARD NOTHING OF INTEREST ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, WE WILL STUDY NUANCES OF FULL TEXT FOR POSSIBLE LATER REPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW08264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750207-0316
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750653/aaaabvsa.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV ELECTION SPEECH: FIRST IMPRESSIONS USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, (GREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006